(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

| Year (Oct.-Sept.) | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Production | 156 | 140 | 158 |

(b) The total share of the country's cotton export in the world was 0.41% in 2000-01 and 0.27% in 2001-02.

(c) So far 221 ginning and pressing factories have been sanctioned for modernisation under Technology Mission on Cotton with an estimated cost of Rs. 271 crore including Government of India share of Rs. 47 crore. Number of ginning and pressing factories sanctioned State-wise are, Punjab (1), Rajasthan (1), Gujarat (107), Madhya Pradesh (20), Maharashtra (79), Andhra Pradesh (6), Karnataka (5) and Orissa (2).

**Import of cotton**

907. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether firm global prices and better quality of local produce have cut India's cotton imports in the year 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total imports of cotton during 2002;

(d) to what extent it will reduce in 2003;

(e) the cotton production made in the country during 2002 and 2003; and

(f) to what extent it will be sufficient to meet the local demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Import of cotton during cotton year 2001-02 (Oct.-Sept.) increased marginally to 24.70 lakh bales (of 170 kg. each) as compared to 22.13 lakh bales during cotton year 2000-01.

(c) Import of cotton during cotton year 2001-02 (Oct.-Sept.) was 24.70 lakh bales (of 170 kg. each).

(d) Import of cotton during cotton year 2002-03 (Oct.-Sept.) is estimated at 20 lakh bales (of 170 kg. each).

(e) Cotton production during cotton year (Oct.-Sept.) 2001-02 and 2002-03 is 158 lakh bales and 152 lakh bales (estimated) respectively.

(f) Domestic availability of cotton during cotton year 2001-02 was 187 lakh bales (including carryover stock of 29 lakh bales) as against the domestic demand of 170.70 lakh bales. Domestic availability of cotton during cotton year 2002-03 is estimated at 192 lakh bales (including carryover stock of 40 lakh bales) as against the estimated domestic demand of 177 lakh bales.

**Handloom Industries in Bihar**

†908. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal for the development of handloom industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken for providing assistance to the industry in the country and particularly in Bihar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has been implementing several Plan and Non-Plan schemes for the Development of handloom sector in the country. These schemes have been addressing the basic problems relating to production, marketing and technological upgradation of the sector, among others. Under handloom sector schemes, financial assistance is provided to various handloom agencies including Primary and Apex Weavers' Cooperative Societies and State Corporations, both directly as well as through the State Governments.

During the Tenth Plan, the following development and welfare schemes have been approved for implementation in the handloom sector all over the country:

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.
2. Marketing Promotion Programme.
3. Design Development and Training Programme.
4. Handloom Export Scheme.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.